

INTRODUCTION: CELEBRATING THE TENTH ISSUE OF *I/S*

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Speaking from a faculty point of view, the founding of *I/S* in 2004 was accompanied by both high aspiration and some measure of anxiety. The value of an interdisciplinary journal focused on legal and policy issues emanating from the ongoing transformation of our information society was transparent. Whether, however, we could sustain a three-issue-per-year publishing cycle and attract a sufficient volume of quality scholarship were both open questions. I am glad to report an affirmative answer to both questions, and the happy answer to our second question—our capacity to attract important work even from established scholars in multiple disciplines—is especially gratifying.

As I write this, twelve issues of *I/S* have been published or are under active development. Four represent our annual Privacy Year in Review issues. Two each have focused, or will focus, on matters of electronic democracy or cybersecurity policy, respectively. Other themed issues have centered on federal secrecy policy after September 11, patent reform, and telecommunications policy. The issue you are now holding or viewing online, which will be the tenth in press, is our first issue without a unifying theme. What we are offering for the first time is a fully eclectic set of the best manuscripts submitted to us across a wide range of information society topics.

In many ways, this collection of papers reflects all the traits we had originally hoped *I/S* would come to embody. Of the eight articles that follow, three are authored or co-authored by non-lawyers, bringing to bear economic and statistical expertise on several “hot” law and policy

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topics.¹ Yet another represents a “within-discipline” contribution by a well-known scholar in both commercial contracting and law and philosophy, which we believe makes a major contribution to legal analysis in a doctrinal subfield that is being revolutionized by digital information and communication technologies.² In a fifth article, a legal researcher with a deeply interdisciplinary orientation steps entirely outside the world of legal doctrine to offer a creative approach to understanding a dimension of the information society that is central to our global prospects for human development.³ Our final three pieces, each submitted when its author was still a law student, demonstrate the capacity of our best graduate and professional student researchers to advance our analysis of critically important issues.⁴ The collection thus embodies a generational and interdisciplinary diversity that is matched only by the breadth of topics the authors address: telecommunications policy, Internet governance, national security, public information policy, access-to-knowledge as a measure of human development, information filtering, and the electronic transformation of two traditional fields of law, contract and libel. Maintaining this level of intellectual richness across the years is our very tall ambition.

It would be remiss in closing not to acknowledge the very many people who have brought *I/S* to its current stage: key among them is my Ohio State colleague, Professor Peter Swire, who superintends the Privacy Year in Review (“PYIR”) issues, and who has arranged our relationship with the International Association of Privacy Professionals, which provides us financial support for the PYIR and makes an *I/S* subscription (including a hard copy of the PYIR) a

¹ Nicholas Economides, “Net Neutrality,” *Non-Discrimination and Digital Distribution of Content Through the Internet*, 4 ISJLP 209 (2008); Jay P. Kesan & Andres A. Gallo, *Pondering the Politics of Private Procedures: The Case of ICANN*, 4 ISJLP 345 (2008); and Philip B. Stark, *The Effectiveness of Internet Content Filters*, 4 ISJLP 411 (2008).

² Francis J. Mootz III, *After the Battle of the Forms: Commercial Contracting in the Electronic Age*, 4 ISJLP 271 (2008).

³ Lea Bishop Shaver, *Defining and Measuring A2K: A Blueprint for an Index of Access to Knowledge*, 4 ISJLP 235 (2008).

⁴ Amanda Fitzsimmons, *National Security or Unnecessary Secrecy? Restricting Exemption 1 to Prohibit Reclassification of Information Already in the Public Domain*, 4 ISJLP 479 (2008); Adam M. Greenfield, *Despite a Perfect 10, What Newspapers Should Know About Immunity (and Liability) for Online Commenting*, 4 ISJLP 453 (2008); and Bryan D. Kreykes, *Data Mining and Counter-Terrorism: The Use of Telephone Records as an Investigatory Tool in the “War on Terror,”* 4 ISJLP 431 (2008).

“perk” of Association membership. We have benefitted also from the support of Moritz College of Law Dean Nancy E. Rogers and Heinz School Dean Mark Wessel. Article review would not be possible without the roughly sixty members of our now International Board of Editors—especially the Carnegie Mellon contingent—representing thought leaders both within and outside the academy across a dizzying array of information society topics. We are grateful to the authors who have made *I/S* a venue for sharing their work and, perhaps most of all, to the four student boards (thus far) who have undertaken the lion’s share of day-to-day labor in bringing *I/S* to fruition. To recast somewhat a well-known African saying, “It takes a network,” and we are privileged to be engaged with ours.

